

IDAHO FALLS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 2, 2010

Attending: Julie Braun, Vice-Chair; Roxane Mitro; Nancy Boland; Hereschell Mynarcik; Cheryl Cox; John Hart, Idaho Falls Downtown Development Corporation; Stephanie Rose. Renee Magee and Lisa Farris, staff. Jeff Neiswanger, Shirley Chastain, Connie Carlson, and Jim Carson.

Minutes, August 5, August 19, and August 26, 2010: Mitro moved and Boland seconded to approve the minutes providing the August 26 minutes are corrected to remove Nancy Boland's name from attendance.

Former Rio Theater, 271 Broadway: The memo from staff explained this building was noncontributing in the proposed district since the 1950's Rio facade had been removed by the last owner. Shirley Chastain explained Jeff Neiswanger was proposing to place metal panels over the existing facade on the upper floor of the Rio Theater. In addition to the metal panel colored silver, the owner proposed to clean the travertine front, repoint the travertine panels, and replace the broken marquee panels with plexiglass panels. The plexiglass was proposed to save on the cost of lettering for the marquee. Part of the glass panels have already been replaced with Plexiglas. Neiswanger explained the Rio Theater had a 1950's contemporary look and they were proposing to carry forth such a look on the upper facade. Roy Reynolds, a local artist, has developed a neon sign for the upper level.

Whipple referred to the photo of this block of Broadway and suggested the proposed facade echoes one building on the eastern end of Broadway. He recommended the panel look be emphasized on the upper level rather than the vertical lines in the sketch. This metal paneling returns the facade to a clean slate. Rose responded, with the former facade and neon Rio sign gone, a blackboard or lean slate was appropriate for the upper elevation. In response to a question about the sheen of the proposed metal panels, Jim Carson referred the Commission members to a photo of an existing building with same panels. He also brought a 3' by 3' panel with him to illustrate the sheen of the color. The panel does not reflect. Carson stated the frame around the metal panels will be replaced and it can be done with a different color. The travertine will be scrapped, power washed, and covered with a clear coat. Braun recommended beginning with the gentlest method first. The gentlest, effective method is preferred so power washing may not be an appropriate method with which to start. Mitro stated a box of the old style marquee letters had been in the basement of the Colonial Theater. She suggested Chastain contact the Colonial to see if the letters were still there. If so, glass panels could be used for replacement.

Braun summarized the recommendations:

1. Use colors suggested by the lower level in the frame for the metal panels,
2. Use the gentlest yet effective method of cleaning,
3. Consider using the panels rather than emphasizing vertical lines on the upper facade, and
4. Retain as much existing material as possible including material within the marquee.

Braun moved to recommend funding to the Idaho Falls Downtown Development Corporation

with the above recommendations. Boland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Karens' Bar, 461 Park Avenue: Magee explained the Hasbrouck building which houses Karen's is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After excusing himself from voting due to a conflict of interest, Whipple explained the damage he found due to water in the area of the transom. None of the original transom remains. To eliminate damage to the building, the existing material in the transom area will be replaced, any structural damage repaired, and metal panels will be installed to seal the building from the weather and eliminate further water damage. Chastain explained the awning will be replaced with a canvas striped awning. The sign will also be replaced as shown in the illustration, and the "Karen's" portion of the sign will be neon. Braun stated she feels this proposal fits within the guidelines since the intent is to preserve the existing building. Mitro moved to recommend funding to the Idaho Falls Downtown Development Corporation since the impact to the structure of the building will be beneficial and the existing proportions of the building will be maintained. Boland seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous: Magee distributed time sheets to the Commission and asked for them to complete them for the hours they spent on the tour in May. The year end report is due by September 30.

Rose discussed the book *Save America's Windows* by John Leeke and the seminars available from the author. His website and calendar are HistoricHomeWorks.com. Information on his workshops were distributed to the Commission members.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Renee Magen, Staff